

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 136

By Lamar

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ken Taylor of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ken Taylor; and

WHEREAS, Ken Taylor was an exemplary public servant and passionate community leader who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on October 21, 1984, in Dyersburg, Mr. Taylor was a strategist, author, and entrepreneur of the highest order; he was recognized and sought after throughout the country for his dynamic keynote addresses as well as his effective communication and political strategy; and

WHEREAS, during his collegiate career, he served as the governor of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, for which he was honored by this General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Ken Taylor founded Kingmaker Strategies, which went on to become one of the top strategic communications firms in the country; concurrently with his work there, he served as chief of staff for the Memphis Education Fund, and he was also the former communications director for Representative Karen Camper, Minority Leader of the State House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his passing, he was the leading voice for the eponymous Ken Taylor Speaks, a catalyzing resource for community empowerment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor's curriculum vitae also included work with Wellness Action Network; Service Employees International Union; Soulsville Charter School, as head of

operations; Progressive Majority Washington, as the State Training and Education manager; and Working Washington, as the Faith Outreach coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Ken Taylor was duly honored for his good work throughout his community and beyond; he was a graduate of the Leadership Memphis Executive Program, was recognized as one of the "40 under 40" by Memphis Urban Elite, and received the honor of Big Brother of the Year, to name but a few of his accolades; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor is survived by his mother, his father, his sister, and his beloved German Shepherd, Senator; and

WHEREAS, Ken Taylor leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ken Taylor, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Taylor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.